

Proclamation

By Mayor and Council - Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, the Township of North Brunswick's **Veteran Street Sign Program** allows Township residents who were Wartime Veterans to be recognized by adding their name on a secondary street sign to an existing Municipal Road; and

WHEREAS, by adding names of local Wartime Veterans to public street signs, we hope to promote public awareness of these individuals and show our appreciation for their outstanding contributions and service to our country as a member of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, eligible military candidates for this honor include honorably discharged Veterans having served in Military Departments as defined under Department of Defense which include Departments of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Wartime Veterans are individuals who served in the active military forces, during a period of armed conflict or who received the armed forces expeditionary or other campaign service medals during an emergency condition, including those who died in the line of duty in the active military forces; and

WHEREAS, **Steven R. Koch** has been selected to be recognized in the Veteran Street Sign Program; and

WHEREAS, **Steven** was born on October 15, 1984, the youngest of three children to William and Christine Koch. The family lived on Ashland Place in North Brunswick from 1979 to 1999. Although all three children attended Our Lady of Lourdes in Milltown, they remained part of the community in North Brunswick. Steven was a participant in the North Brunswick Little League and Bill was active in coaching for many years. Steven attended Linwood Middle School for 9th grade and then the family moved to East Brunswick where he attended East Brunswick High School; and

WHEREAS, **Steven** enlisted in the United States Army in 2006, after his brother Bill was shaken by the terror attacks that took place in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. Steven completed basic training and entered paratrooper school at Fort Benning in Georgia. After graduating paratrooper school, he was transferred to Fort Bragg in North Carolina into the 82nd Airborne Regiment. Steven was deployed to Afghanistan in January 2007 to the Sabari District. His platoon was in deep hostile territory during the early stages of the Afghanistan War, seeing action daily while recovering lost territory from the Taliban in the process. He was active as a "gunner" on the Humvee as well as a communication specialist in charge of all vehicles and hand-held radios for their maintenance. Steven was killed in action on March 3, 2008, during his deployment of the 82nd Airborne 1-508; and

WHEREAS, **Steven** was loved and well respected by the members of his platoon and all who knew him. He was awarded several medals posthumously for his extraordinary sacrifice to the United States of America. Steven was awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds he received in action on March 3, 2008, the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious service from January 2007 to March 2, 2008, the Meritorious Service Medal for service as a highly trained Paratrooper in the United States Army, the Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity in active federal military service, and the Non Article 5 NATO Medal for service with NATO. Steven was promoted to Corporal awarded posthumously by the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, **Steven** was survived by his parents, William and Christine, and siblings Bill and Lynne (deceased 2010) and two children. William, Christine and Bill continue to honor Steven at a Memorial at Our Lady of Lourdes School as well as paver stones at East Brunswick Memorial Park and the Milltown American Legion.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM**, distinguished recognition to **Steven R. Koch** for his service to our country ensuring freedom for all.

Francis M. Womack III
Mayor

Carlo Socio
Council President

Bob Davis
Councilman

Lou Ann Benson
Director of DPRCS

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk
2021